

REMARKS

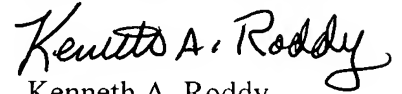
This is a continuation of and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 to copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/227,752, filed August 26, 2002, and is accompanied by a true copy of the prior complete application as filed, including the declaration as originally filed, and an amendment filed April 17, 2003. Prior application Serial No. 10/227,752 was filed as continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/617,872, filed July 17, 2000 (now U.S. Patent 6,442,241), by filing a copy of the specification of Serial No. 09/617,872 along with a preliminary amendment. No new matter has been added. Support for the newly presented claims is present in the prior application as originally filed.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing explanations and remarks it is respectfully requested that the newly presented claims be accepted and entered, and that this application be passed to issue following consideration on the merits.

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Respectfully submitted,



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